

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-08 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01
/030 W

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R 151737Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6188
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
JEMBASSY BANJUL (POUCH)
AMEMBASSY BISSAU
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
OSRUFNPS/AMEMBASSY PARIS 2821

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BAMA KO 1515

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, ML, OREP (DIGGS, CHARLES C. JR.)
SUBJ: CODEL DIGGS CALL ON MALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

1. SUMMARY: CHAIRMAN DIGGS AND CONGRESSMEN SOLARZ AND
WHALEN CALLED ON MALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER APRIL 12.
TOPICS COVERED WERE SAHEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, SOUTHERN
AFRICA, MALI'S RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, AND
ZAIRE. CISSOKHO MADE PLEA FOR ACCELERATED U.S. AID
AND GREAT-POWER POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC BOYCOTT OF
SOUTH AFRICA AND SAID THAT BORDER PROBLEM WITH UPPER
VOLTA WAS A THING OF THE PAST. MALI WOULD NOT CRITI-
CIZE U.S. MILIT-
ARY AID TO ZAIRE. MEETING ENDED WITH
PLEA BY CISSOKHO FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE IN INFRASTRUC-
TURE PROJECTS IN MALI. END SUMMARY.

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2. AFRICA SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CHARLES C. DIGGS,
COMMITTEE MEMBER STEPHEN J. SOLARZ, AND RANKING MINORITY
MEMBER CHARLES W. WHALEN, JR., ACCOMPANIED BY
AMBASSADOR AND STAFF, CALLED ON MALIAN FOREIGN MINIS-
TER CHARLES SAMBA CISSOKHO APRIL 12 IN BAMA KO. CISSOKHO
WELCOMED CODEL AND PRAISED DIGGS' WELL-KNOWN

VIEWS ON AFRICA, EXPRESSING HOPE THAT HE WOULD INFLUENCE OTHER U.S. CONGRESSMEN. MALIAN GOVERNMENT, SAID CISSOKHO WITH A GRIN, WAS JUST LEARNING INTRICACIES OF U.S. AID PROCEDURES AND HE HOPED AMERICAN PUBLIC COULD BE SENSITIZED TO NEED OF ACCELERATED AID. A HUNGRY MAN CANNOT WAIT FOR THE TABLE TO BE SET WITH FINE CHINA, HE SAID.

3. CHAIRMAN DIGGS SAID HE TOO WAS LEARNING INTRICACIES OF GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY NOW THAT HIS PARTY WAS IN THE WHITE HOUSE. CHAIRMAN THEN ASKED FOR MINISTER'S VIEWS ON GENERAL SITUATION IN AFRICA, MENTIONING SPECIFICALLY PODGORNÝ AND CASTRO VISITS, FRANCOPHONE SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN DAKAR, MALI'S RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, AND SOUTHERN AFRICA.

4. CISSOKHO STARTED BY SAYING THAT MALI WAS AN "INTERIOR" COUNTRY WITH NO OUTLET TO THE SEA AND WITH SEVEN BORDERING STATES. THUS, GOOD RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS WERE ESSENTIAL. BORDER PROBLEM WITH UPPER VOLTA HAD BEEN CAUSED BY A MISUNDERSTANDING, BUT REASON HAD WON OUT. MALI'S PRIORITIES WERE FIRST AND FOREMOST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. BORDER DISPUTES WERE NORMAL RESULT OF POORLY DEFINED FRONTIERS BEQUEATHED BY FORMER COLONIAL POWER, BUT, HE STRESSED, MALI SUPPORTED THE OAU POSITION OF RESPECT FOR THE COLONIAL BORDERS.

5. CISSOKHO SAID MALI WAS WORKING QUIETLY TO BRING
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ALL PARTIES TO THE WESTERN SAHARA PROBLEM TO COMMON GROUND. MALI DID NO CARE WHETHER WESTERN SAHARA WAS DIVIDED OR BECAME INDEPENDENT--THE ESSENTIAL THING WAS THAT IT WAS UP TO SAHARAN PEOPLE TO DECIDE, AND THEY MUST HAVE FREE CHOICE. RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA AND MAURITANIA WERE EXCELLENT; RELATIONS WITH MOROCCO WERE GOOD. MALI DID NOT CONSIDER ALGERIA A PARTY TO THE CONFLICT, ALTHOUGH ALGERIA WAS IMPORTANT BECAUSE SO MANY SAHARANS TOOK REFUGE THERE.

6. CISSOKHO DEPLORED ASSASSINATION OF CONGOLESE PRESIDENT NGOUABI. PRESS COMMENT WAS VARIED, AND IT WAS NOT CLEAR IF EXTERNAL INTERESTS WERE INVOLVED. IN ANY EVENT, MALI HAD MADE NO ACCUSATIONS.

7. REGARDING ZAIRE, CISSOKHO SAID SEPARATIST ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE NOT SUCCEED. HE HOPED SITUATION WOULD NOT BE INTERNATIONALIZED, THOUGH HE RECOGNIZED MOBUTU'S SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO REQUEST EGYPTIAN AND

MOROCCAN ASSISTANCE. IT WAS TO BE HOPED THAT MOBUTU WOULD NOT OPEN THE DOOR TO FOREIGN INTERVENTION, SAID CISSOKHO, AND THAT THE PROBLEM WOULD BE QUICKLY RESOLVED.

8. REGARDING RHODESIA, MALI HAD NEVER HAD ANY CONFIDENCE IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND HAD SO STATED IN THE UNITED NATIONS. IAN SMITH GAINED TIME AND HAD LEFT NO WAY OPEN FOR BLACK MAJORITY RULE. THUS, ARMED CONFLICT WAS THE ONLY POSSIBILITY. IN SOUTH AFRICA, IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THE GREAT POWERS ACCEPT NEED OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC BOYCOTT TO BRING SOUTH AFRICA TO REASON. THE ILLEGAL OCCUPATION--AS WELL AS THE FUTURE BALKANIZATION--OF NAMIBIA MUST BE STOPPED.

9. SOLARZ BROACHED ZAIRE PROBLEM AND ASKED HOW
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MINISTER ASSESSED POLITICAL OBJECTIVES OF INVADING FORCE. PERHAPS ITS OBJECTIVES WERE NOT SECESSION OF SHABA BUT OVERTHROW OF MOBUTU. ALSO, HOW ABOUT SOVIET AND CUBAN LOGISTIC SUPPORT OF KATANGESE GEN-DARMES? HOW SHOULD USG, HIONTINUED SOLARZ, RESPOND TO MOBUTU'S REQUEST FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE, BOTH MILITARY AND NON-MILITARY, AT MOMENT OF HIS GREATEST NEED? SINCE MINISTER HAD JUST SAID THAT PROBLEM SHOULD NOT BE INTERNATIONALIZED, SHOULD USG HOLD OFF AID UNTIL CONFLICT HAD ENDED?

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R 151737Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BAMAko
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6189
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMEMBASSY BISSAU
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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10. CISSOKHO SAID THERE SHOULD BE AGREEMENT ON WORDS TO BE USED. WORD "INVASION" MEANT FORCE COMING FROM ABROAD. THERE WAS NO PROOF OF SOVIET OR CUBAN INVOLVEMENT. IF THERE WAS SUCH PROOF, MALI WOULD CONDEMN THEIR INVOLVEMENT. WHETHER SECESSION OR OVERTHROW, MALI HOPED IT WOULD REMAIN AN INTERNAL AFFAIR; EACH COUNTRY HAD RIGHT TO CHOOSE ITS OWN REGIME. IF UNITED STATES SENT TROOPS, HOWEVER, MALI WOULD CONDEMN THE ACTION.

11. SOLARZ ASKED IF MALI WOULD CONDEMN AMERICAN SHIPMENT OF NON-LETHAL EQUIPMENT TO ZAIRE. CISSOKHO SAID THERE WAS NO REASON TO OPPOSE THAT. MALIAN OFFICERS HAD BEEN TRAINED IN FRANCE, UNITED STATES, AND SOVIET UNION, AND IT WAS NORMAL TO HAVE HELP
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FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.

1 CHAIRMAN DIGGS THANKED MINISTER FOR HIS COMPREHENSIVE REPLIES. CISSOKHO THEN MADE SPECIAL

PLEA FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN MALI. RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE WENT TOGETHER, CISSOKHO SAID, AND HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE DELEGATION'S VISIT WOULD SENSITIZE THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO NEED OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.
BYRNE

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